

Draft AGENDA
(Final agenda will be sent first week of May)
MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING

**Energy Development and Agriculture: Wetland and Riparian Issues
Affecting Central and Eastern Montana.**

Wednesday May 30th, 2012
Calvert Hotel Large Meeting Room
Lewistown, Montana

8:45 am. Gather for Coffee and Conversation.

9:00 am. Welcome and Introductions. Lynda Saul, DEQ Wetland Program Coordinator/Wetland Council Chair.

Morning Focus – Agriculture, Grasslands and Farm Bill.

9:15 – 10:30 PANEL

- Identifying Wetland Protection Opportunities: The "Thunderstorm Map" Approach - Sean Fields, USFWS HAPET
- Working Outside the "Blue Goose" signs - Todd Boonstra and/or Jim Stutzman, USFWS Wetland Management Districts
- Ensuring a future for Agriculture and Wildlife - Danielle Kepford, USFWS Realty
- The Migratory Bird Stamp Program and Other Opportunities - Scott Thompson and/or Jim Hansen, MT FWP
- Land Protection in Action: The Ducks Unlimited Experience - Bob Sanders, Ducks Unlimited, Inc

10:30 Break

10:45 – 11:30 PANEL

- NRCS Farm Bill Programs: Where Have We Been and What Does the Future Hold for Eastern Montana? Tim Oullette, NRCS
- The Conservation Reserve Program: Status, Trends and Future Outlook - Amy Webbink, FSA
- The Wetland Reserve Program: The Farm Bill in Action - Abby Rokosch, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

11:30 Round Table Discussion

Noon - LUNCH catered by Calvert Hotel Onyx Grill (RSVP to lsaul@mt.gov and please bring \$7 cash or check)

Lunch speaker - Analysis of Riparian Integrity along the Large Rivers of Eastern Montana. Linda Vance, MTNHP

Afternoon Focus – Energy Development

1:10 Lessons learned from coal bed methane development in SE Montana and aquatic resource concerns. John Wheaton and/or Liddi Meridith, MBMG

1:40 Brine contamination to Prairie Potholes from Energy Development in the Williston basin. Joanna Thamke, USGS & Todd Preston, USGS contractor

2:20 Manning Lake Tribal Wildlife Refuge: Protection in the midst of energy development. Jeanne Spaur, Fort Peck Tribe

2:40 Break

3:00 Potential concerns: fracking, development, and water resources. Duncan Patten, Montana Water Center.

3:30 Round Table Discussion

4:00 Closing Remarks

Montana Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientist speaker series – **Tuesday evening 5/29** in Lewistown at the Calvert Hotel, 6pm – 8pm. Free appetizers, dinner available from Onyx Bar and Grill.

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year and is an active network of diverse interests that works cooperatively to conserve and restore Montana's wetland and riparian ecosystems by implementing Montana's Wetland Plan. Everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, (406) 444-6652 or lsaul@mt.gov. Website: [Montana Wetland Clearinghouse](http://MontanaWetlandClearinghouse.org).